#### Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

This policy statement on safeguarding children and adults in the Church was adopted by:

***St Mary & St Ambrose Edgbaston and The United Church of St Paul’s Balsall Heath (Anglican & URC). Also known as The United Benefice of Balsall Heath & Edgbaston.***

at Parochial Church Council meetings held on **28th April 2019.**

The Parish Church Councils of ***The United Benefice of Balsall Heath & Edgbaston***.recognise the need to safeguard the children, young people and adults in our care and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse of children, young people and adults by persons who may be acting in the name of our parish. We aim to create a safe environment for the nurture and development of children, young people and adults, in order for them to feel valued and confident to ask for support and help. We will create policies and procedures that uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and adults entrusted to our care. A Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator will be appointed to ensure the implementation of this policy.

* We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with children, young people and adults
* We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
* As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
* We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
* We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
* The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
* We commit to informing the whole church community about our safeguarding policy and procedures and recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent and report abuse that we discover or suspect
* We will ensure the children, young people and adults in our care know who they can talk to if they have any concerns
* We recognise our responsibility to always respond to and report abuse in whatever context, inside or outside the church environment and will always listen to and take seriously any child, young person or adult who reports that they have been abused
* We will always report allegations of abuse and concerns about a child, young person or an adult who is experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability in accordance with our procedures
* We will always report all allegations of abuse against Church Officers\* to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser and co-operate with any investigation
* We will keep all records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and the recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely.
* We commit to the safe recruitment of all new and current Church Officers\* who have contact with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability.
* We will assess all new and current Church Officer\* roles and, in every case where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for an appropriate level criminal record check every five years
* We commit to providing every Church Officer\* with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate resources and support and regular opportunities for review
* We will ensure that all Church Officers\* working with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their age illness disability or are in a trusted role attend Church of England safeguarding training every three years
* We will inform the Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser, and ensure appropriate supervision, of anyone who is known to have offended against a child, young person or an adult at risk of abuse due to their age, illness or disability who attends activities organised by the Parish Church Councils of ***The United Benefice of Balsall Heath & Edgbaston*** and will follow all recommendations of the Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser in this regard
* We require all hirers of our premises to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures *where practicable*, to provide us with an assurance that these are implemented and to provide us with a copy
* The parish adopts the policy and practice guidance of The Church of England and The Church of England – Birmingham
* The policy will be reviewed each year prior to the PCC’s AGMs to monitor the progress which has been achieved
* We will review our safeguarding policy annually to ensure that it meets all current legislation, House of Bishop’s and The Church of England – Birmingham policies and practice guidance
* Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This Benefice appoints ***Jonathan Gurling and Natasha Harris*** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies **as the Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators**.

This Benefice appoints ***Helen Harvey*** as a **Lead Parish Identity Verifier** to process online Disclosure and Barring Service applications.

**Incumbent Rev Paul Leckey**

**Churchwardens of BHCC Denise Parris & Lester Burke**

**Churchwardens of SSMA Glenroy Brown**

**URC Minister Peter Bound**

The benefice accepted the above appointments at the PCC meetings on **28th April 2019.**

\* *A ‘Church Officer’ is anyone appointed by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.*

*The parish provides details of how the above policy statements will be implemented in the Benefice, as detailed in our Parish Safeguarding procedure.*

#### Parish Safeguarding Procedure

This Procedure on safeguarding children and adults in the Church was adopted by:

***St Mary & St Ambrose Edgbaston and The United Church of St Paul’s Balsall Heath (Anglican & URC). Also known as The United Benefice of Balsall Heath & Edgbaston.***

at Parochial Church Council meetings held on **28th April 2019.**

We implement our Safeguarding Policy through the following procedures: -

* Through this policy and set of procedures, we aim to educate and encourage anyone with any concerns as to the welfare of children, young people and adults in our care, to have the confidence to take responsibility to notify either a Safeguarding Officer, the Bishop’s Safeguarding Advisor or other agency helpline as appropriate. All details of these contacts will be displayed clearly below our procedure documents, in both churches and within our regular church correspondence.
* Our Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually. The appropriate Church Officers\* will meet prior to the PCCs’ AGMs to review and ensure that the Policy and Procedures still meet the current guidelines and remain effective.
* All Church Officers,\* as appropriate, will be expected to closely follow the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and be shown all relevant documentation and contact details for any concerns. They will also receive the relevant safeguarding training, which will be updated as required.
* Every organisation that hires spaces within our churches or church halls will be required to provide their own Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, where practicable, to demonstrate that they adhere to current legislation and take full responsibility for the welfare of those attending. Individuals will be asked to sign the ‘Safeguarding Statement for Church Hirers’ form, indicating that they will take full responsibility for the welfare of those attending.
* All Church Officers\* where appropriate, will have a DBS check every five years and complete the appropriate Safeguarding Training every three years. This will be recorded on the Benefice Training Matrix, which records all details and dates of courses attended and DBS checks obtained. This documentation will be kept locked in the filing cabinet at the Church Centre Office and any electronic information will be password protected. The Training Matrix will be accessed regularly by the Lead parish Identity Verifier, to ensure all training and documentation is kept up to date.
* If anyone attending church or an event is known to have an offence related to a vulnerable adult or child, the Church Officer\* concerned will notify the Bishops Safeguarding Officer for advice and guidance. This number will be readily available on our displays and documentation.
* We will provide a safe environment for all by ensuring that all Church Officers\* as appropriate, are up to date with relevant training and checks and that our premises are clean, tidy, welcoming spaces that meet current legislative guidelines on standards of H&S and Hygiene.
* To ensure all the church community and visitors are aware of our safeguarding policy and procedures, we will display clearly in both churches with appropriate contact details. Information will also be provided within our Weekly Sheets and Newsletters. Also, as appropriate, we may refer to safeguarding during meetings, PCCs and Services. These methods of communicating our Safeguarding Policy and Procedure will clearly outline to the church community and visitors who they should contact should there be any concerns.
* Our display boards on Safeguarding will promote our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and clearly display names, photos and contact details of the Safeguarding Officers and other contact details, including the Bishop’s Safeguarding Advisor and other relevant agencies at both churches.
* All records regarding safeguarding issues, training, officers, volunteers, etc. will be kept in a secure cabinet in the parish office at BHCC. Any electronic files will be password protected.

### If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone

### please contact

***Safeguarding Coordinators / Officers***

*Jonathan Gurling – 07980127628 or Natasha Harris 07888 650685*

***Safeguarding Officers***

*Beverley Thompson 07867 530129 or Pat Richards 07455 060757*

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services, or, for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

Other useful contacts:

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| Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser | 07342 993 844 | |
| Childline | 0800 1111 | |
| Family Lives Helpline | 0808 800 2222 | |
| Samaritans | 116 123 | |
| Elder Abuse | 0808 808 8141 | |
| Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 2000 247 | |
| Men’s Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 801 0327 | |
| LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline | 0300 999 5428 | |
| National Association of People Abused in Childhood | 0800 085 3330 | |
| Stop It Now! Helpline | 0808 1000 900 | |
| *Local Authority Children’s Social Care Services:*  0121 303 1888 (Birmingham)  0121 569 3100 (Sandwell)  0121 788 4333 (Solihull)  0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire)  01926 414144 (Warwickshire)  01905 822666 (Worcestershire) | *Local Authority Adult Social Care Services*:  0121 303 1234 (Birmingham)  0121 569 2266 (Sandwell)  0121 704 8007 (Solihull)  0345 604 2719 (Staffordshire)  01926 412080 (Warwickshire)  01905 768053 (Worcestershire) | |
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